

Sleetmute Traditional Council

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To Whom It May Concern;

The Sleetmute Traditional Council would like to request an invitation to be a Cooperating Agency in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process of the Donlin Creek Mine.

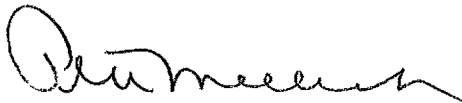
NEPA establishes policy, sets goals and contains procedures to ensure information is made available to the public during the decision making process before final decisions are made and actions are taken (Memorandum for Federal Agency NEPA Contacts and Tribal Coordinators, July 30, 2004). James Connaughton stated on January 30, 2002, that "Studies regarding the efficiency, effectiveness, and value and value of NEPA analyses conclude that stakeholder involvement is important in ensuring decision makers have environmental information necessary to make informed and timely decisions efficiently".

It is our understanding that the Federal agency responsible for the NEPA analysis determines whether other agencies, and /or Tribes are capable of assuming such a responsibility of cooperating agency status. The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Sleetmute Traditional Council is confident that they have the jurisdiction, the expertise, and are capable of assuming the responsibility under 40 C.F.R. § 1501.6.

This is the Sleetmute's Tribe first time requesting such a responsibility in the NEPA process; hence we will provide any additional information needed by your agency to secure cooperating agency status.

Thank you in advance for your time, and please feel free to contact us at: Sleetmute Traditional Council Office (907) 449-4205, (907) 449-4293, President Pete Mellick's Home (907) 449-4254, or Tribal Administrator Lisa Feyereisen's cell (907) 676-0406.

Sincerely,



President Pete Mellick
Sleetmute Tribal President



Lisa Carmel Feyereisen
Tribal Administrator